

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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S E C R E T STATE 165036

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, ETEL, UK

SUBJECT: REALIGNMENT OF NAVAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM
(NTS)

REFS: (A) LONDON 5369

(B) STATE 77246

1. PRELIMINARY PLANNING REFERENCED IN STATE 77246 NOW
COMPLETE. NAVY PROPOSES TO RELOCATE ALL COMMUNICATIONS
MANAGEMENT, SUPPORT, AND OPERATIONS FROM NAVCOMMSTA
LONDONDERRY TO NAVAL RADIO STATION, THURSO, SCOTLAND,

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WHICH WOULD THEN BE KNOWN AS NAVCOMMSTA UK. TARGET DATE

FOR THE ACTIVATION OF NAVCOMMSTA UK IS JULY 1977.

2. THE PROPOSAL IS BASED ON SURVEY CONFIRMING THAT THURSO PROVIDES MOST ECONOMICAL SITE WITH MOST EFFICIENT MANAGEMENT OF EXISTING BUILDINGS TO ACCOMMODATE RELOCATED FUNCTIONS. THE PRESENT MESS HALL CAN HANDLE THE PLANNED EXPANSION AND SOME HOUSING IS AVAILABLE ON BASE FOR MARRIED AND UNMARRIED PERSONNEL. THIS RELOCATION PLAN OFFERS SIGNIFICANT ADVANTAGES THROUGH COLLOCATION OF COMMUNICATIONS STATIONS FUNCTIONS WITH A TRANSMITTER SITE (FORSS) WHICH IS LOCATED IN CLOSE PROXIMITY WITH A RECEIVER SITE (WEST MURKLE). THE FOLLOWING BASIC ELEMENTS OF THE PLAN ANSWER QUESTIONS POSED IN REFTEL A.

3. IN NORTHERN IRELAND, MANPOWER WOULD BE REDUCED FROM THE PRESENT LEVEL OF 18 OFFICERS, 280 ENLISTED AND 107 LOCAL NATIONALS TO ZERO BY DECEMBER 1977. ALL LAND UNDER THE MANAGEMENT OF NAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY WOULD BE RETURNED TO THE HOST GOVERNMENT. CLOSURE WOULD FOLLOW ACTIVATION OF NAVCOMMSTA UK BY APPROXIMATELY THREE TO SIX MONTHS.

4. NEW CONSTRUCTION IN SCOTLAND WOULD INCLUDE A FORTY-FOOT PARABOLIC ANTENNA PROTECTED BY A DOME AND HOUSING FOR ASSOCIATED SATELLITE EARTH TERMINAL EQUIPMENT ON THE EXISTING RECEIVER SITE AT WEST MURKLE, SOME ADDITIONAL ANTENNAS AT THE EXISTING ANTENNA FIELDS, AND ADDITIONAL HOUSING FOR PERSONNEL IN THE EVENT THAT ADEQUATE PRIVATE RENTAL IS NOT AVAILABLE. MANPOWER WOULD BE INCREASED AT THURSO BY ABOUT 3 OFFICERS, 119 ENLISTED MEN AND 4 LOCAL NATIONAL CIVILIANS. THE EXPECTED INCREASE IN DEMAND FOR HOUSING IN THE THURSO AREA WOULD BE APPROXIMATELY 76 UNITS, INCLUDING A MIX OF APARTMENTS, PRIVATE ROOMS, AND HOUSES.

5. REQUEST YOU OBTAIN HMG APPROVAL FOR THE PROPOSED REALIGNMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES. EVEN THOUGH THE PLANNED CONSOLIDATION WOULD NOT BE COMPLETED UNTIL TWO YEARS FROM NOW, SUCH APPROVAL WOULD PERMIT TIMELY NOTIFICATION OF THE CIVILIAN PERSONNEL AFFECTED AND FACILITATE AN ORDERLY TRANSITION.

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